

THE PLANNING AREA

Lenoir County, of which Kinston is the county seat, was formed in 1791 but it was not until 1826 that Kinston was incorporated under the North Carolina General Statutes. Kinston is one of the oldest cities in North Carolina and was first settled in 1762, approximately ten years prior to the Revolutionary War. Kinston has experienced many of the events of our nation's history with some taking place in its midst. As time passed, "historical" events moved further away and industry brought prosperity. Many things from Kinston's past still remain. At one time Kinston's location on the Neuse River was considered very beneficial, however, as advances in transportation and industry occurred, the location on the Neuse became less and less important and possibly an obstacle to development. Map C reflects growth since 1925.

Natural Features

Kinston is located in the center of the Coastal Plain of Eastern North Carolina and in the central northeast area of Lenoir County.

Kinston is served by major highway routes of U.S. Highway 70 and 258, and North Carolina Highways 11, 55, and 91. The Atlantic and East Carolina Railroad and the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad intersect in Kinston. General aviation and major airline service is available at Stalling Field, two miles northwest of Kinston.

Highway mileage to major North Carolina cities are: Charlotte, 212 miles west; Winston-Salem, 183 miles northwest;